

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This application has been carefully reviewed in view of the Office Action dated March 29, 2006. In response, Applicants have cancelled Claims 2, 8 and 20–22, amended Claims 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6 to address the rejections under 35 U.S.C. Section 112, and have further amended independent Claim 1 and submitted a new independent Claim 23 to distinguish the invention over the prior art. Additionally, a Terminal Disclaimer is submitted herewith relative to U.S. Patent No. 6,802,896. Re-examination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The limitation of Claim 1, that the matrix of the green article is composed solely of sintered fly ash is distinct from the prior art. Similarly, the limitation of Claim 23, that only fly ash, plasticiser and water are combined to form a dough, is distinct from the prior art.

Specifically Patent No. 4,043,831 is directed toward making pellets out of fly ash to use as a heat exchange pad. There is no commonality between the present invention and this method of making pellets in methodology, purpose, or final product. Furthermore, this Patent No. 4,043,831 is concerned with densification of fly ash pellets. In contrast, the present application is concerned with making lightweight articles out of fly ash.

Patent No. 3,374,101 is directed to making aggregates by pelletising fly ash. No green article with a sintered fly ash matrix is made within the disclosure of this patent application.

Similarly, Patent No. 4,772,330 is directed to making lightweight aggregates using low heat and without using a plasticiser. This methodology, purpose and final product is distinct from the product of the present application.

Patent No. 5,583,079 is directed to a method of making ceramic articles including using clay, ash, carbon and a binder. This is clearly distinct from the present application which utilizes fly ash, plasticiser and water. Further, the method of patent No. 5,583,079 is performed at a low temperature in the range of 65°C to 100°C.

Patent No. 5,521,132 involves activating fly ash using sodium tetraborates. The product of this is a ceramic material. The disclosure of Patent No. 5,521,132 uses a binder whereas the present application uses a plasticiser.

Patent No. 4,772,330 is a method of producing a lightweight aggregate rather than a green article. Further, the process involves mixing with calciumoxide. The temperature used is at a maximum of 500°C which is

significantly lower than the temperatures contemplated by the present application.

Finally, Patent No. 2,576,565 is directed to using fly ash and bottom ash in a mixture. In contrast, the present application uses fly ash alone. Further, Patent No. 2,576,565 uses bentonite as a binder whereas the present application does not involve use of binder but instead involves the use of a plasticiser.

Generally speaking, the claims have been limited to the use of fly ash, water and a plasticiser for making a green article. This is distinguished from the prior art which incorporates using further components beyond fly ash, water and a plasticiser or is not directed to the production of a green article.

TIME EXTENSION REQUEST

Accompanying this Response is a Request for a Three-Month Extension of Time to Respond to the March 29, 2006 Office Action, together with the required fee.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that each of the claims now presented is in condition for allowance, notice of which is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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